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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2011

TO: Brandon Perkins, Task Monitor,  
EPA, Region 10, Seattle, WA, Mail Stop ECL-112

FROM: Linda Costello, START-3 Project Leader, E & E, Seattle, WA

SUBJECT: Site Recommendations  
South Tacoma Channel Seep  
Tacoma, Washington

REF: Contract Number: EP-S7-06-02  
Technical Direction Document Number: 10-05-0004

cc: Jeff Fetters, START-3 Project Manager, E & E, Seattle, WA

This recommendations memorandum has been developed for the South Tacoma Channel Seep Site, which is located in Tacoma Washington, Washington as part of a Site Inspection (SI). The Tacoma Seep is a naturally occurring ground water seep located in the 800 block of South Tacoma Way in Tacoma, Washington. The site is located approximately 1 mile southwest of the Thea Foss Waterway and north of Interstate 5, which is north of a residential area. The seep is located south of a commercial area, approximately 0.18 miles east of South M Street and north of South Tacoma Way.

The seep is used as a drinking water source by indigent people. The seep was identified during sampling conducted in 2005 by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), who sampled it as part of continuing ground water monitoring for the Commencement Bay – South Tacoma Channel Superfund Sites. During this sampling project, volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination was detected in the seep. The source of contamination to the Tacoma Seep site is unknown. Based on the eastwardly direction of ground water flow, a potential source may be the source of contamination to the City of Tacoma Well 12A OU, the former Time Oil Company.

The SI field sampling event was conducted on September 1, 2010. A total of four samples (including QA/QC samples) were collected to from three ground water seeps to determine the nature of contamination. One ground water sample was collected from the seep on South Tacoma Way, one from Gallagher Gulch, and one from the location of an opening to a former rail tunnel at the City of Tacoma's road maintenance yards at 25<sup>th</sup> and Hood Street.

Analytical data from ground water seep samples collected indicate the presence of one VOC (trichloroethylene) in the ground water seep located along South Tacoma Way. This detection is greater than two times the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level of 5 µg/L. No analytes were detected in the ground water seeps collected from Gallagher Gulch or the former rail tunnel.

Based on these findings, the information contained in the *Site Inspection Report for the South Tacoma Channel Seep* and the accompanying Hazard Ranking System Score, the START recommends that additional action be taken under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please call me at 206-624-9537.